

### Abstract

The present invention provides an electrically conductive  
paste for connecting thermoelectric materials, the paste comprising  
5 a specific powdery oxide and at least one powdery electrically conductive  
metal selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, platinum,  
and alloys containing at least one of these metals. By connecting a  
thermoelectric material to an electrically conductive substrate with  
the electrically conductive paste of the invention, a suitable  
10 electroconductivity is imparted to the connecting portion of the  
thermoelectric element. Further, the thermal expansion coefficient  
of the connecting portion can be made close to that of the thermoelectric  
material. Therefore, even when high-temperature power generation is  
repeated, separation at the connecting portion is prevented and a  
15 favorable thermoelectric performance can be maintained.